

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An encoding preprocessing part 1 extracts the amount of image feature relative to image data and passes the amount of image feature to a control part 2 as image feature amount information 11 and also sends image data 10 to an encoding part 3. The control part 2 determines whether there is a dissolve image or not based on the image feature amount information 11 and if it is determined that the image data 10 is the dissolve image, an encoding parameter 12 is set so that a configuration of GOP which is normally  $M=3$  is changed into the configuration of GOP of  $M=2$ , and the encoding part 3 performs encoding based on the encoding parameter 12. As a result of that, a prediction error of a B-picture frame in a dissolve interval becomes substantially zero and on encoding in the dissolve interval, the amount of information occurrence in frames except I-picture and P-picture frames can be reduced and thus the amount of information occurrence as a whole can be reduced.